Karnataka during 2003-04. In Tamil Nadu 3.04 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains allocated free of cost to the State during 2003-04.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have also released a cash component of Rs.57.25 crores and allotted it to different districts The Government of India Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation has released Rs.33.99 crores under Calamity Relief Fund and Rs.298.16 crores under National Calamity Contingency Funds to the Karnataka State during 2003-04. Under Normal SGRY, Rs. 25.00 crore during 2003-04 and Rs. 20.03 crore during the current year (2004-05) have been released to the State of Karnataka. Rs. 46.78 crores have been released under Calamity Relief Fund and Rs. 173.35 crores under National Calamity Contingency Fund to the State of Tamil Nadu during 2003-04. Under Normal SGRY during 2003-04, Rs.36.71 crore and Rs.23.46 crore during the current year have been released to the State of Tamil Nadu.

Concessions sought by weavers of Andhra Pradesh

*128. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether a delegation of Andhra Pradesh weavers has sought certain concessions and measures to revive handlooms, handicrafts and powerlooms in the unorganized sector; and

(b) if so, the details of their demands and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Representations have been received from Andhra Pradesh weavers regarding measures for the handloom sector.

(b) The main demand in the representations pertains to withdrawal of the excise duty on hank yarn and opening of yarn banks. The Government of India is implementing the Mill Gate Price Scheme, under which 15 yarn depots have been approved till now in Andhra Pradesh for the handloom sector. The Scheme for Reimbursement of CENVAT on hank yarn was introduced *w.e.f.* 01.04.2003. Under the Scheme duty free yarn of the value of Rs. 1588.85 lakh has bean supplied to weavers in Andhra Pradesh by the implementing agency in 2003-04. Further, in his Budget Speech of 8th July, 2004, Finance Minister has proposed to introduce a new tax regime for the Textile Sector under which the mandatory CENVAT chain will stand abolished and there will be no mandatory excise duty on pure cotton, wool and silk, whether it is fibre, yarn, fabric or garment.